

Appl. No. 09/881,041
Amendment dated June 8, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated January 8, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring health-related conditions of patients, comprising:

a plurality of remote monitoring stations, each being ~~adapted~~configured to receive patient health-related data pertaining to a respective patient; and

a computer network comprising a database containing accumulated health-related data pertaining to health-related conditions and ~~treatment~~ treatments that reveals population trends and outcomes and at least one data access device ~~adapted~~configured to provide a health care provider access to said computer network and said database, said computer network ~~being~~ adaptedconfigured to receive said patient health-related data pertaining to respective patients from said remote monitoring stations~~[[,]]~~ and provide a health care provider with electronic treatment establishment tools to establish treatment programs for said patients based on their respective patient health-related data and said accumulated health-related data, and said computer network configured to revise said accumulated health-related data based on said patient health-related data for identification of improvements in standards of care and medical practices that can be made for different ones of the health-related conditions;

said remote monitoring stations being configured with electronic self-management tools for receiving from a respective patient said patient health-related data relating to integration of a selected one of said treatment programs into the patient's lifestyle comprising at least one of questions concerning health or treatment and responses to questions concerning health or treatment that are generated using said electronic self-management tools;

said computer network being configured with electronic assessment tools to allow a health care provider to assess said patient health-related data to determine progress of the patient on the selected treatment program and whether information relating to the selected treatment program needs to be conveyed to the patient in response to said progress determination.

2. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

each of said remote monitoring stations comprises at least one measuring device, ~~adapted~~configured to measure a physiological condition of said respective patient, and to provide data representative of said physiological condition for inclusion among said patient health-related data; and

said electronic assessment tools are configured to allow a health care provider to monitor said patient health-related data relating to integration of a selected one of said treatment programs into the patient's lifestyle and determine readiness of the patient for self-management under the selected treatment program.

3. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said remote monitoring stations are ~~adapted~~configured to provide said patient health-related data to said computer network over the Internet.

4. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said electronic assessment tools are selected from the group consisting of Standard Form-36 (SF-36), Duke Activity Index, guidelines of the Diabetes Quality Improvement Project (DQIP), tools for specific disease state monitoring, depression scales, nutrition assessment tools, quality of life assessment tools.

5. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said computer network is ~~adapted~~configured to generate reports, each including health-related information pertaining to a respective said patient.

6. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

said computer network is ~~adapted~~configured to provide said accumulated health-related data stored in said database to organizations financing at least a portion of said treatment

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programs, and is ~~adapted~~configured to receive financial data pertaining to said treatment programs from said organizations and to store said financial data in said database.

7. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

each said remote monitoring station receives from its respective said patient said ~~health~~patient health-related data including data pertaining to the cardiovascular system of said patient.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring health-related conditions of patients, comprising:

obtaining patient health-related data pertaining to patients at a plurality of remote monitoring stations, each being ~~adapted~~configured to receive respective said patient health-related data from a respective said patient;

storing accumulated health-related data pertaining to health-related conditions and ~~treatment~~ treatments that reveals population trends and outcomes in a database of a computer network;

receiving at said computer network said patient health-related data from said remote monitoring stations pertaining to respective patients;

controlling said computer network to provide a health care provider with electronic treatment establishment tools to establish treatment programs for said patients based on their respective patient health-related data and said accumulated health-related data;

controlling said computer network to revise said accumulated health-related data based on said patient health-related data;

generating from said accumulated health-related data clinical data comprising outcomes of said treatment programs;

receiving economic data relating to protocols used in said treatment programs;

aggregating said patient health-related data, said clinical data and said economic data with ~~information~~ said accumulated health-related data comprising population outcomes and generic standards of care; and

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determining from said aggregated data recommendations for improving the treatment programs.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein:
each of said remote monitoring stations includes at least one measuring device; and
said obtaining includes controlling said at least one measuring device at each said remote monitoring station to measure a physiological condition of its respective patient to provide data representative of said physiological condition for inclusion among said patient health-related data.
10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein:
said receiving includes transmitting said patient health-related data from said monitoring stations over the Internet to said computer network.
11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
providing a health care provider access to said computer network and said database via at least one data access device.
12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
controlling said computer network to generate reports, each including health-related information pertaining to a respective said patient.
13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said receiving step comprises:
controlling said computer network to provide said accumulated health-related data stored in said database to organizations financing at least a portion of said treatment programs, and to receive financial data pertaining to said treatment programs from said organizations and to store said financial data in said database.

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14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein:

said obtaining step includes controlling each said remote monitoring station to receive from its respective said patient said health related data including data pertaining to the cardiovascular system of said patient.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for managing health-related conditions of patients, comprising:

assigning healthcare managers to said patients, such that each said healthcare manager is assigned to a respective group of said patients;

collecting healthcare data by using each said healthcare manager to collect respective patient health-related data for each respective patient in their said group of patients;

determining whether each respective patient is suitable for participation in a treatment program;

controlling a computer network to receive said health-related data from each of said healthcare managers, and to store said patient health-related data pertaining to each said patient in a database, said database further including accumulated data pertaining to health-related conditions and treatments that reveals population trends and outcomes;

coordinating each said healthcare manager with at least one member of a primary care team to establish a treatment program for each respective patient in their said group of patients based on said patient health-related data pertaining to that respective patient and said accumulated data; and

updating said accumulated data in said database based on said patient health-related data provided by said healthcare managers and identifying improvements in standards of care and medical practices that can be made for different ones of the health-related conditions;

wherein the determining step comprises the steps of

obtaining agreement from a respective patient to participate in a treatment program; and

receiving approval from a payer who will pay for the treatment program;

wherein the controlling step comprises the steps of

receiving health-related data for a respective patient comprising assessment of the patient's medical, psychosocial and environmental conditions;

receiving a plan of care initiated by the corresponding one of the healthcare managers assigned to the patient as a result of an interview with the patient and the assessment, the plan of care being used in the establishment of the treatment program for the patient.

16. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein:

said collecting includes using a respective remote monitoring station to obtain respective said patient health-related data from each respective said patient.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein:

said controlling controls said computer network to receive said patient health-related data from at least some of said health-care managers via the Internet.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

controlling said computer network to provide said accumulated health-related data stored in said database to organizations financing at least a portion of said treatment programs, and ~~is adapted to~~ receive financial data pertaining to said treatment programs from said organizations and to store said financial data in said database.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

controlling said computer network to generate reports, each including health-related information pertaining to a respective said patient.

20. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein:

[[said]]respective said patient health-related data for each said respective patient includes data pertaining to the cardiovascular system of said respective patient.

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21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein collecting healthcare data comprises said healthcare managers developing a client plan of care (CPOC) and a medical plan of care (MPOC), the CPOC is developed during the interview with the patient, and the MPOC is developed with at least one member of the primary care team.

22. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the determining comprises excluding a respective patient based on selected criteria comprising the patient is a minor, the patient has not received a selected diagnosis, and the patient cannot communicate effectively, and including a respective patient based on selected criteria comprising having a selected primary diagnosis, and being at risk for future hospital admissions.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing a treatment program for a patient comprising:

assigning healthcare managers to patients;

determining whether each of said patients is suitable for participation in a treatment program;

collecting healthcare data by using said healthcare managers to collect respective patient health-related data for each of their assigned said patients, said healthcare managers developing a respective client plan of care (CPOC) for each of their assigned said patients by interviewing them if they are selected for participation, and developing a medical plan of care (MPOC) comprising a treatment program for each of their assigned said patients in cooperation with a primary care team comprising at least one of primary care physicians, hospitals and specialists;

controlling a computer network to receive said patient health-related data from each of said healthcare managers, and to store said patient health-related data pertaining to each of said patients in a database, said database further including accumulated data pertaining to health-related conditions and treatments that reveals population trends and outcomes;

coordinating said healthcare managers with at least one member of the primary care team to ensure the treatment programs are followed by respective said patients, tracking any

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changes to the MPOC and updating members of the primary care team regarding the changes;
and

updating said accumulated data in said database based on said patient health-related data provided by said healthcare managers, including revisions to the CPOCs and MPOCs for respective said patients and identifying improvements in standards of care and medical practices that can be made for different ones of the health-related conditions.

24. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23 further comprising:

scheduling conferences between said patients and said members of the primary care team; and

documenting patient-related communications comprising at least one of messages, an interview communication and conference communication during the conference and during non-scheduled patient-related communications for storage in said database.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 23 further comprising:

said healthcare managers following clinical encounter schedules to communicate with their said patients;

using scripts to communicate with said patients during the clinical encounters; and
assessing said patients' physical and psychological responses.